



MINUTES

City Council Regular Meeting
January 5, 2021 - 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rudy called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

PLEDGE

ROLL CALL

Mayor:	Brian Rudy
Mayor Pro-Tem:	Mark Clark
Council:	Laura Speer
	Alicia Johnson
	Fred Neal
	Amanda Castle
	Tammy Mortenson

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was no audience participation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Pro-Tem Clark made the motion, seconded by Council Member Castle to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed with all voting in favor thereof.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of the December 15, 2020 City Council Meeting Minutes

Mayor Pro-Tem Clark made the motion, seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed with all voting in favor thereof.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Consideration of Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals Alternate Member Appointment

Mr. Becklenberg reviewed the item as presented in the agenda packet. The Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals, which have the same members, has had an alternate position vacant. That vacant position was advertised beginning in October, 2020 and ran through December 23, 2020. Two applications were submitted for Councils' consideration. Council conducted interviews this evening. He then turned the meeting over to Mayor Rudy.

Mayor Rudy stated that Council conducted the two interviews. There were two fantastic candidates, Kimberly Doss and David Woolman. They were both very well presented, and it was a tough decision for the City Council. Both would be fantastic in the position, but there is only one position available. City Council has chosen David Woolman to fill the position.

Council Member Castle made the motion, seconded by Council Member Mortenson to appoint David Woolman as the Alternate Member of the Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals. The motion passed with all voting in favor thereof.

3. Consideration of Amended Employment Agreement with City Manager, James L. Becklenberg

Scott Krob, City Attorney, reviewed the item as presented in the agenda packet. City Council recently conducted a performance evaluation of the City Manager. Based on a favorable review, Council had requested an amendment to the contract that would allow for three additional vacation days, with a cap of 288 hours for the year. Included in the packet is an amended Agreement reflecting this change.

Mayor Rudy advised Mr. Becklenberg is doing a fantastic job and City Council recognizes what has been done, and continues to be done, for the City and Council. Due to COVID-19, salary freezes were put into place. The additional vacation days is a way City Council can say thank you to Mr. Becklenberg for what he has done, and continues to do, for the City.

Council Member Johnson added that the City has progressed in such a great way since Mr. Becklenberg came on board. In the past four years, the City has evolved in a positive way. The vision that the Council has for the City has been manifested by Mr. Becklenberg and staff and has been appreciated. The City continues to move in a positive direction. If not for Mr. Becklenberg and staff, that would not be happening. She appreciates what he has accomplished.

Council Member Castle made the motion, seconded by Council Member Neal to approve the Amended Employment Agreement with City Manager, James L. Becklenberg, and authorizes the mayor's signature on the Agreement. The motion passed with all voting in favor thereof.

4. Consideration of Resolution Number 01-2021 Authorizing the Evans Police Department to Enter into a Five-Year Contract with Axon Enterprises to Purchase Auto-Transcription Services and Increase the Annual Taser/Axon Contract to \$51,300.32.

Mr. Becklenberg reviewed the item as presented in the agenda packet. Over the last few years, the Police Department has been working to incorporate body-worn cameras into the City's operations. The City has been working with Axon Enterprises, formerly Taser Company, for some time. The City has additional agreements with them. The contract amendment before

Council adds one more component. Since this addition takes the total contract amount above \$50,000.00, Council's approval is required. He then turned the meeting over to Rick Brandt, Chief of Police.

Chief Brandt explained that the request is to add an auto-transcription component that takes the audio recordings from the body-worn cameras and interrogation rooms and automatically transcribes them. It can take a 90-minute interview and transcribe it in approximately 3 minutes. This will save a lot of time in transcribing the interviews. Patrol officers will be able to narrate their report instead of having to type it up, which will then be pasted into the report. This will save countless hours once it is up and running. The District Attorney's Office is in support of the software. Officers will be able to search for specific terms to be used in the reports and the software will find the specific point in the video. The software will increase accuracy in the reports and save a lot of time.

Mayor Pro Tem Clark believes this is fantastic and will save a lot of time and allow officers to spend more time in the public. He is in favor of the request.

Council Member Castle believes that the man hours will be spent on things that are more valuable due to the software capabilities and will provide a benefit to the District Attorney's Office.

Council Member Johnson agrees with the comments and believes that this will benefit the City considering all the changes in reporting regulations. She appreciates the Chief is looking for things to assist his department staff in facilitating their jobs. She also believes that the next process will be to incorporate dash cams.

Council Member Neal asked if the original recordings will still need to be maintained. Chief Brandt responded yes. The record retention will be the same as the body-worn camera footage.

Council Member Speer asked if there will be proofing or auditing of the transcriptions. It is important to verify the accuracy. Chief Brandt responded that staff test-drove the software for a period of time and found that it was important for the staff member that conducted the interview to review the transcription to ensure its accuracy. What is interesting about the software is that it uses Artificial Intelligence technology, so it learns as it goes and makes less and less mistakes. It learns the speaking style, speed, inflection and makes fewer mistakes. Council Member Speer asked if the officer can manually override the transcription. Chief Brandt responded yes, just like any other word processing software.

Council Member Johnson asked if the transcription will be automatically saved to the cloud-based server. Chief Brandt stated that they are moving to a system that will automatically download the video to the cloud and then the officer can select that video file and request the transcription. He added that this will save the department a lot of money.

Council Member Speer asked if the City would need to purchase more cloud storage. Chief Brandt stated he is not sure. The City pays a fee to Axon now for cloud storage, which increases annually due to record retention requirements.

Mayor Pro Tem Clark made the motion, seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve Resolution Number 01-2021. The motion passed with all voting in favor thereof.

REPORTS

5. City Manager

Randy Ready, Assistant City Manager, provided a year end update to the 2020 capital projects including the 47th Street project, the 37th Street overlay project and the 23rd Avenue road project. The ribbon cutting for the 23rd Avenue project was done on Saturday. Council Member Speer asked about the 23rd Avenue striping, which current states "Right Turn Only" in the right lane. Randy Ready responded that the temperature must be above 40 degrees to replace the striping. Eventually the intersection will look like 35th Avenue. Mr. Becklenberg added that the signal will also be upgraded to reflect the changes.

Mr. Becklenberg also thanked Council for his Amended Employment Agreement. He is very thankful for his job and enjoys working with the City and Council.

6. City Attorney

There were no further reports from Scott Krob, City Attorney.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (general comments)

There was no audience participation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm.


City Clerk



CITY OF EVANS – MISSION STATEMENT

"To deliver sustainable, citizen-driven services for the health, safety, and welfare of the community."

It is the policy of the City of Evans that all programs and activities shall be accessible to, and usable by, persons with disabilities. Persons needing assistance shall contact the Safety & Risk Management Manager at the City of Evans. Please provide three to five business day's advance notice so we can adequately meet your needs.